

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. In the Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 3, 8 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this amendment, independent claims 1, 4 and 9 have been amended, without prejudice, to include features from their respective dependent claims 3, 8 and 11. Claims 3, 8 and 11 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4 and 9 are amended solely to expedite allowance of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more applications, including continuation and divisional, directed to different combinations of features of this invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 8 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 3, 8 and 11 have been canceled, and their features incorporated into claims 1, 4 and 9, respectively.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Brideglall (US 2007/0091845 A1) in view of Nassir-Toussi et al. (US 7194011 B1, hereinafter, "Nassiri-Toussi") and further in view of Malek et al. (US 2004/0081117, hereinafter, "Malek").

Applicants neither agree with nor acquiesce to the Final Office Action's position regarding the rejection of these claims. Nonetheless, claim 1 and claim 4 have been amended, without prejudice, to include features from their respective dependent claim 3 and claim 8, solely to expedite the allowance of this application.

Since dependent claims 3 and 8 are indicated as allowable, the amended claims 1 and 4 are now in allowable form. Claims 2 and 5-7, which depend from their respective base claims 1 and 4, are also allowable over Brideglall, Nassiri-Toussi and Malek.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Brideglall and Nassir-Toussi.

Applicants neither agree with nor acquiesce to the Final Office Action's position regarding the rejection of claim 9. Nonetheless, claim 9 has been amended, without prejudice, to

include features from claim 11, solely to expedite the allowance of this application. Claim 11 has been canceled.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Bridegall, Malek and Nassir-Toussi. Since claim 10 depends from claim 9, it is also allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment, reconsideration, and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues regarding any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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